**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A collapsible container, comprising:

a plurality of rigid segments, each of the rigid segments has an inner surface, an outer surface, and a first of longitudinal edge and a second longitudinal edge; and

means for connecting the rigid segments such that the rigid segments define a sidewall and such that the rigid segments are movable between an expanded position ~~wherein~~ and a collapsed position, in the expanded position the rigid segments cooperate with one another to form an object receiving space ~~and a~~ and the outer surfaces of the rigid segments face radially outwardly, in the collapsed position ~~wherein~~ a first portion of the rigid segments is arranged so that the outer surfaces of the rigid segments of the first portion of rigid segments are in a coplanar relationship to one another and a second portion of the rigid segments is arranged so that the outer surfaces of the rigid segments of the second portion of rigid segments are in a substantially parallel relationship to the outer surfaces of the first portion of the rigid segments so that the sidewall is in a substantially flattened condition.

Claim 2. (Original) The collapsible container of claim 1 wherein the means for connecting comprises a flexible liner to which each of the rigid segments is connected.

Claim 3. (Original) The collapsible container of claim 2 wherein the flexible liner has an open upper end and a closed lower end.

Claim 4. (Original) The collapsible container of claim 3 wherein the flexible liner is fabricated of a waterproof material.

Claim 5. (Withdrawn) The collapsible container of claim 1 wherein the connecting means comprises a plurality of flexible members, each flexible member having a portion connected to one of the rigid segments and another portion connected to an adjacent rigid segment.

Claim 6. (Withdrawn) The collapsible container of claim 5 wherein each of the rigid segments is characterized as having an inner surface, an outer surface, a first of longitudinal edge and a second longitudinal edge, and wherein the flexible members are connected to the inner surface of the rigid segments so that the first longitudinal edge of one rigid segment abuttingly engages the second longitudinal edge of the adjacent rigid segment in the expanded position.

Claim 7. (Withdrawn) The collapsible container of claim 5 wherein each of the rigid segments is characterized as having an inner surface, an outer surface, and a first

longitudinal edge and a second longitudinal edge, and wherein the flexible members are connected to the outer surface of the rigid segments so that the first longitudinal edge of one rigid segment abuttingly engages the second longitudinal edge of the adjacent rigid segment in the expanded position.

Claim 8. (Withdrawn) The collapsible container of claim 1 wherein the connecting means comprises a plurality of living hinges, each living hinge having one portion connected to one of the rigid segments and another portion connected to an adjacent rigid segment.

Claim 9. (Withdrawn) The collapsible container of claim 8 wherein each of rigid segments is characterized as having an inner surface, an outer surface, a first longitudinal edge and a second longitudinal edge, and wherein the living hinges are connected to the inner surface of the rigid segments so that the first longitudinal edge of one rigid segment abuttingly engages the second longitudinal edge of the adjacent rigid segment in the expanded position.

Claim 10. (Withdrawn) The collapsible container of claim 8 wherein each of the rigid segments is characterized as having an inner surface, an outer surface, and a first longitudinal edge and a second longitudinal edge, and wherein the living hinges are connected to the outer surface of the rigid segments so that the first longitudinal edge of one rigid segment abuttingly engages the second longitudinal edge of the adjacent rigid segment in the expanded position.

Claim 11. (Original) The collapsible container of claim 1 wherein the rigid segments are constructed of a material selected from the group consisting of ceramic, clay, concrete, plastic, metal, rock, or combinations thereof.

Claim 12. (Currently amendedl) The collapsible container of claim 1 ~~wherein each of the rigid segments has an inner surface, an outer surface, and a first of longitudinal edge and a second longitudinal edge, and~~ wherein each of the longitudinal edges is angled such that the first longitudinal edge of one rigid segment abuttingly engages the second longitudinal edge of the adjacent rigid segment in the expanded position.

Claim 13. (Currently amendedl) The collapsible container of claim 1 ~~wherein each of the rigid segments has an inner surface, an outer surface, a first longitudinal edge, and a second longitudinal edge, and~~ wherein the first longitudinal edge has an inner lip extending therefrom and the second longitudinal edge has an outer lip extending therefrom such that the inner lip of the first longitudinal edge overlaps the outer lip of the second longitudinal edge of an adjacent rigid segment when the rigid segments are in the expanded position.

Claim 14. (Original) The collapsible container of claim 1 wherein the rigid segments have a substantially planar configuration.

Claim 15. (Withdrawn) The collapsible container of claim 1 wherein the rigid segments have a substantially curved configuration.

Claim 16. (Currently amended) A collapsible container, comprising:

a flexible bottom panel;

a plurality of rigid segments, each of the rigid segments has an inner surface, an outer surface, and a peripheral edge; and

means for connecting the rigid segments to one another and to the flexible bottom panel such that the rigid segments define a sidewall and such that the rigid segments and the flexible bottom panel are movable between an expanded position ~~wherein~~ and a collapsed position, in the expanded position the rigid segments cooperate with one another and the flexible bottom panel to form an object receiving space ~~and a~~ and the outer surfaces of the rigid segments face radially outwardly, in the collapsed position ~~wherein~~ a first portion of the rigid segments is arranged so that the outer surfaces of the rigid segments of the first portion of the rigid segments are in a coplanar relationship to one another and a second portion of the rigid segments is arranged so that the outer surfaces of the rigid segments of the second portion of the rigid segments are in a substantially parallel relationship to the outer surfaces of the first portion of the rigid segments so that the sidewall and the bottom panel are in a substantially flattened condition.

Claim 17. (Original) The collapsible container of claim 16 wherein the means for connecting comprises a flexible liner to which each of the rigid segments is connected.

Claim 18. (Original) The collapsible container of claim 17 wherein the flexible bottom panel is a portion of the flexible liner.

Claim 19. (Original) The collapsible container of claim 17 wherein the flexible liner has an open upper end and a closed lower end, and wherein the flexible bottom panel is the closed lower end of the flexible liner.

Claim 20. (Original) The collapsible container of claim 18 wherein the flexible liner is fabricated of a waterproof material.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn) The collapsible container of claim 16 wherein the connecting means comprises plurality of flexible members, each flexible member having one portion connected to one of the rigid segments and another portion connected to an adjacent rigid segment.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn) The collapsible container of claim 16 wherein the connecting means comprises a living hinge having one portion connected to one of the rigid segments and another portion connected to an adjacent rigid segment.

Claim 23. (Original) The collapsible container of claim 16 wherein the rigid segments are constructed of a material selected from the group consisting of ceramic, clay, concrete, plastic, metal, rock, or combinations thereof.

Claim 24. (Currently amended) The collapsible container of claim 16 ~~wherein each of the rigid segments has an inner surface, an outer surface, and a peripheral edge, and~~ wherein the peripheral edge is angled such that the outer peripheral edges of adjacent rigid segments abuttingly engage when the rigid segments are in the expanded position.

Claim 25. (Original) The collapsible container of claim 16 further comprising:

support means positioned in the object receiving space for supporting the rigid segments in the expanded position.

Claim 26. (Original) The collapsible container of claim 25 wherein the support means is a flower pot.

Claim 27. (Original) The collapsible container of claim 25 wherein the support means is an insert configured to conform the contour of the inner side of the rigid segments when the rigid segments are in the expanded position.

Claims 28-40. (Cancelled)